41 Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1980
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without some further notes on body ornaments. Men as well as women usually wear gold earrings, which are still made from melted gold sovereigns. Women also have gold nose-rings, always worn in the left nostril. Gold, silver or brass armlets may be worn by women just above the right elbow. Numerous silver, gold or glass bangles will be on the wrists; men too wore a silver bangle and silver or copper toe-rings until 50 years ago. Silver or steel rings are worn on the fingers of both sexes (Thurston 1909: 81-82). Necklaces of great variety are also favoured by girls. In general, where gold ornaments are too costly women wear them in filagree silver, brass, copper, iron or steel instead (Grigg 1880: 220). Badagas believe that if a person wears gold, the length of his lifetime will be greater. One might think that wearing gold invited theft; but in fact it seems that this did not often occur amongst the Badagas. Throughout the nineteenth century men, when travelling from village to village, carried a walking-staff with a small axe-head in lieu of the handle, for protection. When however they were to walk to the plains on a trading expedition (prior to 1825) they would first divest themselves of all ornaments, including even their silver waist-bands and any richly made cloak. They were clearly very afraid of brigands, even though they travelled in a group of up to 100 men.

This still does not complete the list of ornaments, however. Priests wear a silver ring during each festival. Some of the headmen wear gold or silver "rings of office" on their fingers, given to their ancestors by East India Company officials or even earlier chieftains of Mysore. The headman of Ke:ti wears one called *sinaganige*, which his ancestor seems to have taken from another Badaga headman after a hand-to-hand fight. It is now worshipped in his home every Monday. Such rings can always be given as security against a fine, and are conventionally worth 1,000 rupees in gold coins. Women who go barefoot — still the great majority today — wear silver rings on three or four toes of each foot. (In Southern India slippers are associated mainly with Muslim women and Hindu dancing girls.)

Until about 1930, it was the custom for men to carry non-collapsible umbrellas made of palm leaves on a cane frame. (Such umbrellas can still be seen in Kerala occasionally.) Since the Nilgiri Plateau is very wet for a part of the year (roughly 20 ins. in May-July, and another 30 ins. the rest of the year), these or their more recent Western equivalents often substitute for a walking stick. Until very recently it was thought disrespectful to the men for women to carry

174 224 from Ketti took the shredded remnant of a hunting net and two spears to a point upon the mountainside behind Ketti. While two men held up the net remnant, two with spears charged at it. Then all sat in a circle and sang folk songs before returning the equipment to the Hirodaya temple. Using these examples, it seems likely that the Badagas once hunted with nets and spears. Now they use muzzle-loaders, shotguns, and rifles. Although a few go hunting, most guns are employed in the protection of crops from such animals as black-naped hares (Lepus nigricollis F. Cuv.), pigs, and porcupines. 411 (224) [241]

175 177 464 Other occupations. From the time Englishmen started to settle on the Nilgiris, outside employment became available. Both poor and wealthier Badagas took advantage of ever-increasing job opportunities. By 1829 many poorer Badagas were performing all types of labor (Hough 1829: 96). In 1860 a few were working on coffee plantations, but by 463 1868 many males were working as artisans or laborers on European-owned plantations (Markham 1862: 376; Shortt 1868: 58). There were Badaga clerks, cordite factory workers, building and road contractors, forest guards, gardeners, and school teachers by 1909, and before 1934 wage earning became the main means of livelihood for many Badagas (Thurston 1909, 1: 63; Ranga 1934: 11). Badagas are presently employed in the Government of India Cordite Factory, the Needle Industries (India) Ltd., and the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company in the Nilgiris. Some Badagas have a high school education, and a few are university graduates. As a result, there are Badaga clerks and professionals employed in private industries, or in positions with the (871)

222 262 137 are collected when bamboos (Bambusa arundinacea Willd., Dendrocalamus strictus Nees) periodically produce seeds and die off.

000 •411 000 Mullu Kurumbas living in the western Nilgiri Wynaad and nearby Malabar Wynaad frequently hunt with bows and arrows. However, in 1963 I found no proof of their use by the Badagas and Paniyas inhabiting the Nilgiri Wynaad. Again, the evidence indicates that in most of the Nilgiri region hunting nets and spears have in the past been standard hunting implements. Paniyas have gained a reputation for hunting tigers with hunting nets and spears. According to Francis (1908: 30-31), hunting nets from various households were joined into a "V" surrounding a tiger. Directed by Paniyas up in trees, other Paniyas with spears drove the tiger toward the "V's" point while simultaneously closing the opening. The surrounding nets were slowly moved in during a period of several days, and Paniyas lit nightly fires all around the enclosure. Finally, the half dead and harassed tiger was speared to death. Similar hunts are said to still be held upon occasion.

241 Gardens. In multilayer gardens around houses these species were noted: guava, jack, mandarin orange, mango, pagoda, pummelo trees, areca (Areca catechu L.), fishtail (Caryota urens L.) palms, banana fronds, papaya plants, sugarcane, shrubby amaranth (Amaranthus cruentus L., common race), brinjal, castor, chili (Capsicum annuum L.), coffee, okra (Hibiscus esculentus Bend.), tomato, edible root-yielding canna, elephant foot yam (Amorphophalus campanulatus Bl.), tapioca, taro, creeping lablab bean, bitter-gourd, pumpkin, rose, sweet-potato,